



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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League Executive Board

17th meeting – Monday 27 June 2022 – 7.00pm by Zoom

Note of meeting

Present: David Ward (chair), Terry Bateman, Mark Beardshall, Gareth Davis, Chris Froggett, Maurice Gilliatt, Liz Lazenby, Roger Pugh, Steve Ward, Nelson Windle, Graham Swallow (secretary)

Apologies: Ashley Boothman, Ian Cotterhill, Matt Summerhill

1. **Welcome & apologies.** DW welcomed Gareth Davis, who attended in place of Ian Cotterhill. There were apologies from Ashley Boothman and Matt Summerhill.
2. **Matters Arising from last meeting.**
 - The minutes had been distributed to the committee.
 - MG asked about the outcome of the meeting at Rockingham. MB said that DW and himself and met Andy Baker and Richard Skipworth on 1 June to discuss the clothing issue in a positive vein and seeking to move forward. MB was supportive of the message on the RCCC sweater, and suggested that the club could display a board or banner at their home ground and, if opponents agreed, at away grounds. It was not acceptable for slogans to appear on clothing, and never had been in cricket. MB said that he was very disappointed with the response from one Rockingham official.
 - The issue of dates of birth on team cards was raised. DW said that only the month and year should be shown – not the date. This will be clarified in the next bulletin.
3. **Reports from Members**
 - a) *Equity & Diversity Group representative's report*
 - Report attached from Nelson Windle – see appendix 1.
 - NW confirmed that Jason Booth would be part of the disciplinary panel at next week's hearing.
 - b) *Safeguarding Manager's report*
 - Report attached from Maurice Gilliatt – see appendix 2
 - GD asked MG if he was aware of the ECB's 'Positions of Trust' law changes and would forward details – it was agreed a link should be included in the weekly bulletin.
 - c) *Participation Manager's report.* Nothing to report. DW/RP/GD/LL will have a discussion after the meeting about defining the role.
 - d) *Umpires' representative's report.* TB reported that:
 - captains' marking cards were completed satisfactorily
 - there was still a shortage of umpires, with some of those in the lower divisions not knowing the rules
 - training sessions would take place during the winter months to make umpires aware of the new laws coming into force from 1 October 2022, and it was suggested that umpires who did not attend should not be allocated games

- there had been an issue with live streaming at Barnsley Woolley Miners CC, where an umpire's decision was challenged by the Whiston PC scorer; DW confirmed that live streaming must not be used to challenge umpire's decisions
 - umpires had said they had not been given prior warning of live streaming, but TB's view was that umpires know which grounds have live streaming, and that he personally would proactively confirm that, rather than appear awkward
 - it has been suggested that Peter Ratcliffe and Mick Bocking should be considered for the League 'Hall of Fame.'
- MG raised the issue of untidy umpire's rooms, and TB responded that he was more concerned about getting things right on the field of play; DW to contact Ackworth but said that this was an issue for the respective cricket committees, not the LEB.

e) *Scoring update*

- Report attached from Steve Ward – see appendix 3
- There was a discussion about scorers' pay, and it was agreed that a minimum payment should be recommended.
- SW reported that a seminar would be arranged for scorers in the Senior section.
- SW will arrange a working group to look at scoring issues and will report back.

f) *Treasurer's report*

- The accounts for the period had been forwarded to members.
- RP queried why payments of the ECB monies to clubs were not showing on the accounts. DW to check/action.

g) *Premier Section report*

- Report attached – see appendix 4.
- The issue of captains' reports was discussed. DW said the completion rate was 95% although a number of reminders had been issued; he felt that clubs should not need reminding. The PS committee felt that standard of completion was the greater issue, and that meaningful comments were needed to aid umpire progression. These comments need to be fed back to umpires.
- The issue of confirmation of scores on Play-Cricket was issued, there had been much adverse feedback on this and SW had said he thought it unnecessary. RP had spoken to Kevin Motley, who checks all the PS scorecards anyway, and he is more than happy to confirm them on P-C.
- DW reported that Treeton had played an illegible player in their recent match against Appleby Frodingham. Treeton to be deducted the twelve league points with a further six points suspended. Appleby Frodingham will not gain any points from the fixture, and SW said they should be made aware of this. DW will advise Treeton formally, and RP will speak to Appleby Frodingham.

h) *Senior Section report*

- Report attached – see appendix 5.
- DW spoke about several safeguarding issues, some in games with no umpires.
- DW confirmed that Rule 39 needs reviewing for 2023.

i) *Compliance Manager's report.* Nothing to report.

j) *Competitions Manager's report*

- DW confirmed that MS was currently working on the structure for 2023.
- Rockingham 4ths, Sheffield United 3rds and Wath 3rds currently have no 'home' ground for next season.
- Barnby Dun 1sts & 2nds from the Pontefract League and Norton Woodseats 2nd X1 from the Y&DCL will be joining the YCSPL in 2023.
- DW confirmed that no club will be joining via the pyramid system or any other leagues in 2023.

k) *YCB update*

- GD reported that he had received no information from some clubs regarding Clubmark, the deadline for which is 30 June, although 80% of clubs had now completed. An updated list will be sent to DW.
- He stated that 1,619 All Stars and 584 Dynamos had signed up in South Yorkshire, with a marked increase in Under 9s.
- GD congratulated Houghton Main CC for their efforts with juniors during the season and for completing Clubmark.
- He reported an ongoing project with Caribbean CC and the Asian community and thanked Higham CC for allowing their ground to be 'home for disability cricket'.
- He said that South Yorkshire is the leading area for Women's and Girls cricket.
- He emphasised the lack of available grounds, especially in the Sheffield and Rotherham areas, and said that he may need help from the YCSPL when speaking to the local councils.

l) *Chair and ECB Update.* Nothing further to report.

3. **Other agenda items**

a) *Adoption of Anti-Discrimination code.* This has been sent to clubs and some have already implemented it.

b) *Follow up on Diversity Training.* RP said he would post an item on the website to say that the training had taken place, and the outcomes. It is proposed that a dedicated email address should be available for anyone in the league who wanted to report or discuss any perceived discrimination. This mailbox would be monitored on a regular basis by a rota of members of the LEB/E&DG.

c) *Disciplinary issues*

- DW reported that Mick Bocking had recently stood down and Neil Vaughan had taken over as Chairman. DW has asked NV to find a suitable person to act as Disciplinary Officer. A representative of the E&D group will sit on any panels.
- DW reported that, halfway through the season, out of eight hundred fixtures so far, there had been eighteen disciplinary cases to date, with nine of those occurring in the same weekend.

d) *Draft bulletin insert on rule 43.* The note will go with a minor amend suggested by DW. The rule will be amended to allow promotion of charities in agreed format.

e) *Update on Players Survey.* RP reported that we have received 240 responses to date, there is clarity on the wish to retain the red ball in league cricket and a strong majority in favour of teas being provided, and there have been with some interesting suggestions made; more clarity is still needed on start times and the number of overs, particularly in the lower divisions, and more responses will be sought.

f) *Response to media on rule 43.* DW said that there have been seven requests for comments, including from Cricket Yorkshire. No comment has been made; DW has updated Chris West at the YCB.

4. **Other Business**

- SW had met with the ECB's Paul Bedford and asked for a formal response regarding E & D training. RP to liaise with JB/NW.
- SW has also made enquiries regarding Mental Health training – will keep LEB updated.
- SW suggested that this year's MCC fixture should be staged at a different ground. This was agreed, and he would explore alternatives. RP asked him to be mindful that specific ground criteria need to be met.
- GS said that LEB members had received recommendations from the sub-group regarding this year's Presentation Dinner and asked for their views.
- DW reported a complaint from Warmsworth CC of drink and drug abuse in their fixture with Darfield CC last weekend involving the Darfield overseas player. This is being investigated.

5. **Closure.** The meeting closed at 9.06pm. The next meeting will take place on Monday 25 July 2022 by Zoom (7pm).

Equity & Diversity update

- The second E&D player survey had 249 responses, from which the headline results were that:
 - the majority said that clubs were inclusive
 - 66% had not experienced discrimination and most that did, did not report it
 - 65% would welcome education on equity & diversity
- The group are working on an advert, with input from YCB, to make the group more fully representative of the League
- There has been dialogue with the Disciplinary Committee to ensure that the group will be represented on hearing panels
- The Group had written an endorsement of the integration of Roger Pugh into committee work on behalf of the League

Nelson Windle
27 June 2022

Safeguarding Manager's report

- An email has been sent out to all clubs' Safeguarding Officers (CSOs), chairmen and secretaries, asking CSOs to deal with any incidents between clubs themselves before getting the league involved.
- Two more incidents reported where foul and abusive language had been used towards a junior player.
- The first incident was from a senior bowler towards a young batsman who played a shot getting an inside edge and the ball running away to the boundary for a four. The bowlers end umpire spoke to the bowler stating bad language was not appropriate and would not be tolerated, the young batsman was crying, but after being asked several times if he was OK, he said he was.
- The second incident involved the same young batsman the following day in a cup match, having played a good shot off the opening bowler the bowler went on to use foul and abusive language.
- The club for which the young batsman plays for sent a report in of both incidents.
- The first incident, the club which the bowler plays for have given him a final warning regarding his future conduct, the bowler has apologised to both his club and his team mates for his outburst.
- Regarding the second incident, the club chairman has spoken to the opening bowler and told him that his language will not be tolerated plus the CSO has sent an email of apology to the young players club.
- Also regarding the second incident, one of the standing umpires had reason to report one of the incoming batsmen who was swinging his bat round his head in a threatening manner; it was related to the incident regarding the bowler's comments. This incident has been dealt with both by his club and the discipline panel, but in the umpires' report there was no mention of the bowler's bad language.

I have been in contact with the club chairman, whom the young player plays for and I have spoken in person to both the club chairman regarding the second incident and Ray Knowles in general about both incidents who agrees that CSO's should deal with those sorts of incidents.

Ray stated he had or is dealing with incidents where juniors parents had become involved, but if CSO's could or should deal with any such incident(s) that would save a lot of time and effort.

Maurice Gilliatt
27 June 2022

Scorers Report

- There is an obvious lack of interest, and a great deal of apathy, regarding scoring in the League as a whole. However, this is not exclusive to the League, but is evident throughout the Country.
- Clubs are struggling to attract sufficient interested people, of all ages, to score at matches, and this is evident when 2 clubs with inexperienced scorers are playing each other. When this happens, the role of the Umpire is made more difficult.
- Reasons for this include
 1. Clubs do not recruit during the winter months
 2. Clubs do not take up the Leagues offer of training relevant personnel.
 3. Scorers do not attend relevant training, catch up sessions.
 4. Lack of Volunteers for other roles in Clubs
 5. Clubs general apathy for the role as scorer
 6. No guidance from League or ECB ACO re remuneration for scorers. (remuneration for scorers in the League range from NIL to £60 per game!)
- Some clubs do not provide scorers with the relevant equipment to enable them to do the role, and let the game flow, eg an adequate laptop or tablet (preferably a laptop) and a fully working and ready printer.
- In addition to the comments in the LEB notes from last week, there were several issues at the weekend. These were as follows
 1. Lack of knowledge of DLS by both Umpires and Scorers at many games, my phone was red hot!
 2. Lack of working printers at most home clubs in the Premier Section, which was simply not good enough as DLS affected most games.
 3. One Clubs lack of respect/understanding of the standards required to be a Premier Section Club in relation to scoring.
 4. One Club not providing a scorer at a T20 day, and more importantly not explaining to the relevant parties, opponents, umpires and other scorers re this. Two games were scored by one person with a parent sat in the scoreboard confirming players to their opponents' scorer. No acknowledgment of this was given by the offending club.
- I have had several calls from clubs in all Divisions wanting advise on scoring, including a call from Thorpe Hesley CC at 9pm on Friday night, someone was asked to score the following day and didn't know what to do.
- I really do think that scoring is a low priority at some clubs, I think that a minimum rate should be set at two thirds of the umpires rate/expenses. This may attract relevant personnel, but it will reward appropriately and help to retain experienced scorers.
- If Clubs say they cannot afford it, my response is can you afford not to pay it?
- I will set up a working party, and have in mind a few people to include, this will reflect all divisions of the League.
- Training is currently being undertaken by some scorers, and courses are being set up during the training period, off season.

Steve Ward
27 June 2022

Premier Section report

- 1 **Ground & facilities criteria for distribution of ECB monies.** Chris Froggett and Roger Pugh have prepared a proposal document for agreement – see attached. It is emphasised that just 10% of the overall potential payment to clubs would depend on these criteria being met.
- 2 **Scoring update.** Steve Ward is very concerned at the standard of some of the scorers – particularly some of the younger and less experienced ones, who do not have the necessary interest and knowledge. Steve believes that they will not know what to do in DLS situations. Some scorers rely on more experienced colleagues, and when two inexperienced scorers are together they will struggle. Steve said that scoring was very low priority at some clubs, who were simply not really interested the role. He also commented that some printers had been simply left in boxes or were not available in the scoreboard box. It was agreed that:
 - clubs will be told in the bulletin that printers must available and working at all PS games
 - a proposal for a minimum rate of payment for scorers will be raised at LEB
 - Steve will set up a task force to look at scorer training issues
 - Roger will set up a ‘Scorers page’ on the website, which will include the DLS PowerPoint guidance
 - the need for the scorecard to be confirmed when live scores are used to be raised at the LEB – SW believes that it is unnecessary and is effectively scorers authorising their own work. *Note: Kevin Motley checks all PS scores on an ongoing basis on matchdays, pointing out any errors or issues, and checks the score cards at the end of the day – we want him to continue to do this for PS, in the interests of accuracy, and to confirm the scores when he has done it. He dealt with three issues this Saturday alone.*
 - there are various issues around Play-Cricket which are being raised by clubs – the League needs to raise these with ECB
- 3 **Captains’ reports**
 - Agreed that reminders should be sent, but there needs to be a minimum of a week allowed for completion, and rather than penalties being applied, the positive reason for filling in the reports, ie, to provide information that will help umpiring standards to improve, needs to be emphasised.
 - The issue should not be the timeliness or quantity of the reports, but the quality of the information contained. Umpires do not routinely get feedback from the reports, which needs to be addressed.
 - Concerns have been raised on reports about the physical capability of two umpires, which is a Health & Safety issue, but the umpires are still umpiring at the same level.
- 4 **Players’ clothing issue.** It is suggested that we tweak the rules to allow clubs to promote a charity in an agreed format, covering size, positioning and wording, on the basis that it is common to all the shirts/jerseys worn by the team.
- 5 **Umpire recruitment.** To be kept on the PS committee’s agenda for the next meeting, so that suggestions made in the survey can be considered.
- 6 **Disciplinary committee.** There should be a PS representative on the committee, which should ideally comprise three people; to include a player, an umpire and a committee member. It was also suggested that it would be best to have more people making less contributions.
- 7 **Pitches.** The League should be prepared to take advantage of funding that may be available for pitch improvements; the PS will organise an audit of squares in order to provide evidence; to look at the capacity for improvement; and highlight what clubs want to do and what the benefits will be.
- 8 **Inspections.** Need for PS to inspect at clubs who will potentially be promoted – Aston Hall, Hallam, Houghton Main, Shiregreen and Wickersley Old Village for the Premier Division, and Darfield, Sheffield United and Upper Haugh for the Championship. They should be assessed against the G&F document.
- 9 **Appleby Frodingham v Treeton.** The committee are satisfied that Treeton played the second overseas player in the game. This was contrary to the provisions of rule 38. The PS committee recommended sanctions, which the Head of PS has agreed with the LEB chairman.

Senior Section report – note of June meeting

1. **Safeguarding** – LP reported that the Monk Bretton issue had been handed over to Maurice Gilliatt. She also reported verbal abuse towards a junior player in the recent Warmsworth v Doncaster Town fixture. DW explained that this was not a disciplinary matter, and that MG was standing in the game. MG was waiting for the other umpire's report and a response from the clubs. LP suggested that these issues should be dealt with wherever possible by the relevant clubs. It was also noted that a Level 1 warning had been issued by the umpires during the game. It was agreed that an email should be sent to the Chairman, Secretary and safeguarding Officer of all clubs reminding them of their roles and responsibilities.
2. **Discipline** – DW reported that Mick Bocking had resigned as Disciplinary Chairman, and that Neil Vaughan would now take on the role of disciplinary chairman and a disciplinary officer would need to be recruited, in the short-term Neil would be supported by DW & RP. He stated that MB had not been happy with issues that were not 'discipline' and by certain comments passed by Paul McFarlane. It was agreed that we should thank MB for his time and commitment to the role. DW confirmed there had been seven separate incidents last weekend.
3. **Bentley Colliery application** – DW/LS/GS had recently visited the ex-colliery ground. In general, the ground and facilities were in a satisfactory condition. LP said from her experiences with the BDCL, they were not great at administration. It was agreed that we should accept their application if the Pontefract League agree to their release for 2023. DW had informed them that we require Umpire details by 31 July 2022. Other clubs joining the YCSPL in 2023 will be Norton Woodseats 2 and Barnby Dun 1 and 2.
4. **Cup Competition rules** – Due to adverse weather on Sunday 5 June DW emailed clubs and asked them to read the rules regarding them concluding the fixture on that day, as previously agreed. He confirmed that most games were concluded but that Adwick le Street conceded.
5. **Anti-Discrimination code** – DW reported that clubs must have an anti-discrimination code in their constitution.
6. **T20 Plate 26 June 2022 – Provision of Food, Balls & Payment of Umpires** – it was agreed that clubs staging the group stage matches on Sunday 26 June would provide teas if they do so for league matches. If not, they will be required to provide teas for three Umpires and three Scorers and drinks for Players.
7. **Adwick le Street** – have confirmed they will not be entering a 2nd XI in 2023.
8. **Sheffield Super Strikers** - have shown interest in joining the league but nothing confirmed. Under the Y&DCL rules they would not be allowed to join until 2024.
9. **Other business**
 - i. MS had received a query from Ackworth regarding a fixture clash due to their progression in the National Village Cup and their game with Treeton. MS said Treeton would have to agree to any rearrangement. Failing that, Ackworth would have to decide which fixture they should fulfil.
 - ii. MB reported that this the first season since he took over the role of Play Cricket manager that he was unable to 'lock' all results during the following week, and that three were still 'open' from last week. He stated that a Barnsley Woolley junior had played last week and this and was still not registered. Furthermore, there were issues with a junior at Green Moor and Brookhouse. DW reported that clubs were still not submitting scorecards within the permitted period and that further action would be taken if this continues.
 - iii. NW stated that the E & D Group report is to be submitted.
 - iv. BL asked about the sewerage problems at the Woolley ground. DW has spoken to Mark Beardshall about this.
 - v. DW reported problems at the Civil Service ground in Ecclesfield which Whitley Hall 3 are hiring where no teas or drinks had been made available. DW has spoken to Joe Webster who suggested that umpires should not be sent there to officiate in future.
 - vi. LS reported a lack of coat pegs and lots of rubbish in the umpire's room at Thornccliffe.
 - vii. DW has contacted Wickersley 3, Wath 3, Sheffield United 3 and Rockingham 4 to name their grounds for 2023, but to date he has had no positive response.
 - viii. LP mentioned that several club scorers in the Championship were juniors aged 13/14, and they lacked the concentration levels to score at that level.
 - ix. GS asked if the August meeting could be switched to Monday 15 August. Agreed.
 - x. GS reported that players from both teams and the umpires had worn navy shirts and trousers during the Whitworth Cup fixture between Sprotbrough and Wath and asked if in future umpires could wear white shirts/tops. GS asked about the quantity of pink balls available at each cup match if a ball was lost and it was agreed that all clubs should have spares from previous matches which they should carry and be available for use.